DSAC Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2013

You are invited to
DSAC A.G.M

Tuesday 26th February 2013
at
The Clubhouse, 23 Bell Street, Droylsden

7.30pm

Food and tea/coffee will be provided.
ALL ARE WELCOME

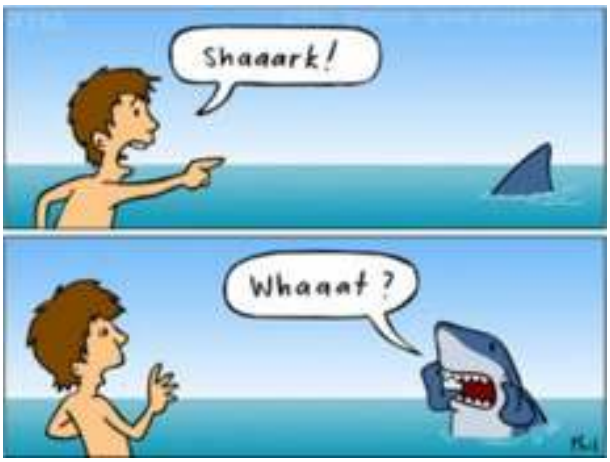
Dates for the Diary…

26th February – AGM 7.15pm
16th March – Hodges Close, Cumbria
23rd June – Vivian Quarry
13-14th July - Chepstow Diving Centre
27th July – 2nd August – Scapa Flow
16-18th August - St Abbs
20th – 22nd September - NEMO33

Dave Parkys Funny Bits!!

A man walks into a doctor's surgery and says "Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a moth" The doctor says "That sounds serious but I'm sorry I can't help you. I'm a doctor and you need to see a psychiatrist" The man says "Yes I know but your light was on".

"I can understand why you're excited about your new scuba gear, but do you have to sleep in it every night?"



On the 1st day, God created heaven and earth. He looked at his work and saw that it was good.
On the 2nd day, God said "Let there be light" and there was light. God looked at his work and saw that it was good.
On the 3rd day God created the land and the oceans. He looked at his work and saw that it was good.
On the 4th day, God created all the animals that live on the land and all the fishes that live in the sea. God looked at his work and saw that it was good.
On the 5th day, God created man in his own likeness. He looked at his work and saw that it was good.
On the 6th day, God created woman, a companion for man. God looked at his work and thought to himself "Bloody hell, that's going to need make up".

I was walking along the sea front at Blackpool the other day when I heard a commotion coming from down on the beach. I looked over the railings to see this guy laying into a woman who was trying desperately to hang on to a baby she was holding. The guy picked up a stick and started whacking the woman and trying to grab the baby from her.

Just then a Policeman arrived on the scene and started trying to wrestle the stick away from the guy. The guy then started whacking the policeman with the stick as well as the woman. The copper managed to grab the stick when the guy snatched the baby from the woman and started hitting him back with it. The guy dropped the baby which made the woman start screaming. It was all getting very scary with everybody laying in to everybody else when suddenly, a crocodile appeared and ran off with the string of sausages.

Ripples in the sand from Keith Hyde.

We had booked a weekends diving on what was described as a great liveaboard for eight divers based at Abersoch.I t was a lovely summer Friday evening when we gathered on Abersoch beach and the Captain Skinner was moored some 200 or so metres out on a glistening smooth sea.

There was a small dinghy, manpowered, that was to ferry us out to get on board but first it was necessary to load our equipment on the dinghy and take that separately. This we did and though the dinghy looked a bit top heavy it should have been o.k.as the sea was so calm.

As if to throw out a warning of what was to come there was one single wavelet that tipped the dinghy sufficient to throw the top layer of gear into the sea ensuring a wet weekend for one of us. I think it was Phil Ellis. We were soon aboard and the skipper proudly told us about his new wreck finding and navigation equipment he had on board plus the compressor he then disappeared in the dinghy. So began a nightmare weekend, we were effectively imprisoned for the night unless anybody fancied a swim.

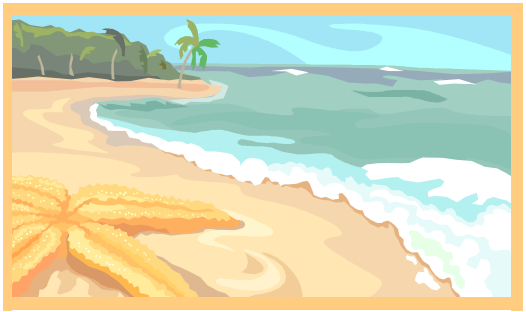
There were eight of us including a married couple and when we sorted out the tiny sleeping spaces the married couple decided to sleep in the bilges for privacy. This didn't last very long however because wifey decided to escape the oil and diesel fumes and sleep with us lot. Hubby was not very happy.

Next morning skipper came over in the dinghy and did breakfast of boiled egg with bread and butter and tea after which we donned wet suits in anticipation of some good diving. We were ribbing the hubby about his wife preferring to sleep with the boys and in temper he threw his egg into the sea, little did he know that would be all food
on offer for the next 7or 8 hours.

We were to sail round the Llyn peninsula to Morfa Nefyn with the skipper keen to show off his new gadgets and he was so busy locating and logging wreckage I think he forgot we there to dive. We reminded him of this and at last, well into the afternoon, we anchored at one of his newly discovered sites in Bardsey sound. Eagerly we kitted up and soon dropped into the water. My dive buddy for the weekend was Jim, blind as a bat without his glasses, and we descended to the bottom at 10 Mtrs.

All we could see in the not too good vis. was sand. We did what we guessed was a circular search and found nowt but sand and more sand. Back on board and after picking up the rest of the party the story was the same, ripples in the sand.

Upping anchor we moved on to another of captain marvels sites but he told us it was a protected area rich in scallops etc.so look don't touch. This time we hit bottom at 14 mtrs. and found more ripples in the sand. twenty minutes was enough of that but my buddy swore he saw a scallop. No sooner had we dekitted than we were boarded by the fisheries inspectorate but gladly we were all clear.



Air refills were then required and because of the length of time for each fill from his rather donkeyfied compressor it was decided to moor up at Morfa Nefyn whilst two remained on board filling cylinders and the rest went to the pub including the skipper. Against both our natures Jim and myself volunteered filling duties and they were to bring us some tinnies back. The compressor was very slow and it seemed hours before we were done when a storm warning came over the radio gale force 4 winds imminent. The skipper was in the pub and with mobiles still a pipedream and no walkie talkies to hand we had to wait till the booze patrol got back to tell him about the warning. It was already starting to blow up a bit, but this show off hapless mariner decided to run the gauntlet of notorious Bardsey sound and go back to Abersoch. So we headed direct into the foulest weather I've ever had to experience in a small boat.

The pub patrol had brought back tinnies for Jim and I so I wedged myself in the corner of the cabin to enjoy a couple of well earned drinks, may as well go down happy. Then I noticed that the dinghy was only attached by what looked like a piece of string so I asked the skipper to heave to and let me get a better line on it but he said "Nah it'll be o.k." So enjoying my drink I watched the dinghy being tossed up and down until it disappeared altogether, was it the tinnies affecting my eyesight, no it had really gone, so I alerted the skipper. Captain Ahab foolishly in our opinion did a U turn to look for it, in so doing lost at least an hour of headway and to no avail. We were barely making any headway but at least we were still afloat so I had another tinny.

It took about 7 hours to sail around the Llyn peninsula approximately 20 nautical miles and what amazed me was that one of our party slept right through it all, no names but his initials are J.P.

Sunday morning after hearty breakfast, beans and more beans, Captain Ahab promised us a dive on aircraft wreckage out in Tremadog Bay.

Eagerly kitting up again we were looking forward to some real good diving and my buddy was Jim again. We descended to 20 mtrs. this time before we hit, lo and behold, sand and we used the ripples in the sand to carry out a circular search in crap vis to fail again. Once again they all had the same results.

The last and best dive of the weekend was on the Timbo which on really low tides can be seen from the surface and lies between the St.Tudwals Islands East and West and can be reached by kayak from the shore at Abersoch. Beggars can't be choosers but overall it was a disastrous trip. To cap it all the skipper tried to set us up by falsely reporting us to the police for stealing equipment including his compressor. This was all part of an insurance scam. Our club secretary at this time was Joe Wood and he was a prominent officer on the Manchester fraud squad. Fortunately he was known by the Abersoch police having served a period there and a phone call from him was enough to set the record straight and earn our captain marvel a stern reprimand.

We later received a full apology and the offer of a free weekends diving. No prizes for guessing if we took it up or not.

This account of events is true as far as my memory serves me with the exception the skippers names which are of course made up.

CAPERNWRAY DIVING

Saturday 29th December

"What a beautiful day for diving" said Mark as we loaded the car up wearing 3 layers of clothing!! Yes off to Capers for the Christmas Dive.
It was a good turn out and was colder for the non-divers than divers!
The water was slightly chilled (?) at 5'C and very quiet…yes only DSAC and a few others were that bonkers!
All managed one dive…but the 3 hardcore divers did 2 (Mark, Dennis & Andy - I think we called them something else at the time…you can guess what!)
Shore cover was easy as we were all testing our torches out…Andy had programmed them all to flash in time to YMCA!
The pub bell rang early, but the water was clear and as always, despite the rain later on and the shore cover, who must have been frozen, a good day was had by all.
Dennis…sorry it turned out to be an expensive day… 1 lost compass, 1 pair glasses run over and broken,1 air fill & 1 entrance fee…
Note from Andy…check the roof of your car before leaving a dive site…yes Andy left a trail behind him of gloves and hoods…
CAPERS 3…DSAC 0!!

RACE NIGHT

Thanks to all who came to the Race Night on 19th January. It was a good night and the club managed to raise £112 for funds.

Well done to Reece Elliott who won the Race Night Trophy – lets hope he didn't go into school and show off his gambling skills!!

Hope you can all make it to the next one…"DSAC fortunes"

Separation Procedures

What do you do if you lose sight of your buddy…
DON'T PANIC!

- Stop where you are
- Look around 360' and up and down from where you are (don't move yourself) in case they have sunk or shot to surface
- If you still can't see them, wait where you are for 1 minute, looking around while you wait
- Come to the surface, ascending safely with any necessary safety stops
- If you still don't see them at the surface raise the alarm to shore/boat cover immediately.

TRAINING CORNER

Hello All
I hope that you are well and are getting "Dive fit" ready for the coming year – if not you had better hurry

Rescue Scenarios
The Royal we (I have delegated to Dennis and Ron) are running Rescue Scenario Nights in February. (Starting on the 14th Feb)
The aim of these pool lessons is to give you a step by step understanding of what should happen on a rescue, what could be expected of you during a rescue and how to organise a rescue, in the unlikely event that you need to.
I hope that this is a big success and look forward to seeing lots of people contributing / learning from this exercise !!
There will involve some standing around, so a spare towel is advisable, along with full scuba kit – in case you need it!!

Diving season is fast approaching and we have a busy year planned ahead of us!

Have we all had our kit serviced, ready for the season ahead? You need to test it in the pool before open water.....
Have you had nice new diving related Christmas presents? You need to test it in the pool before open water.....
Also, if you have not dived recently, you should be testing ALL of your kit in the pool on a Thursday night.

Don't forget the AGM – where you get to have your say – where you get to get on the committee – where you can apply for the Training Officers role or even the Assistant Training Officers role. If anyone has any questions on what the role entails – please let me know and I will run through it with you

If you have any further questions, please let me know

Matt Stevens

CRB Forms
Will be changing 1st March, if you teach within the club you will be required to have a CRB check, please see Rachel Shore – Molyneux for more details
NB. You need a specific CRB form for the club, previous attained CRBs will not be accepted by BSAC.

FILL IN YOUR LOG BOOK
It is a club requirement that you keep logbooks up to date…after each lesson and dive ensure you fill it in and get it signed off. Even your front sheets (including mugshots & contact information) must be up to date.
Trainees will not be passed unless your log book is up to date.
Any queries please see Ron.

Note from Ian…
Full BSAC Membership has increased to £55.50. If your membership renewal is due now, please confirm to Ian if you'd like to renew your membership.

What do you want from your club?

At the Race Night Helen put up ideas of what people may want from DSAC, both divers and non-divers alike. Thanks to everyone at the race night who put some great comments/suggestions on the ideas provided. Helen & I have put a list of results below. If you would like to say anything, or have any suggestions or even just agree or disagree with anything on the list feel free to email myself or Helen. We will also have the sheets up at the AGM for anyone who hasn't had their say yet, but would like to. Your comments will remain completely anonymous.

Any comments are greatly appreciated…it is your club as well…

Jules & Helen

julie@therapyforfeet.co.uk
hshore@newlands.rochdale.sch.uk

Do we want to apply for grants – If so what for? - Club mini bus /Club house extension /60" LCD TV instead of projector / Resuscitation Dummy / Club mini bus

Is there anything that any other clubs do that you would like us to do - No charge for boats

More social nights or events - Yes please – at least 2 a year / Yes more race nights

More members, older , Younger, Disabled - Encourage youngsters already doing their training

More snorkelling - Yes maybe when dives are cancelled, in rivers and lakes

New Boat - Sell

More structured pool nights - Two dives per month, one for training /Yes, why do most sports divers stop training on pool nights, were wasting money on pool rent

More boat diving - Yes

Still want family night once a month - Yes No kids / Kids are the future / Every 2- 3 months

Bigger club house - Extension Yes / Our own outdoor pool /Heating for the club house

Non- Diver members what do you want - Events that don't need a non-drink driver / Conversation other than diving

More Kit - No

More Day trips to different places - Yes – Closer places (Liverpool Dock)(reservoir) / Visit to quarry (Vvivian) where the children can explore whilst the divers are under / London day out, Ladies, Gents & Kids to diving exhibition, either London or Birmingham

Families, what do you want from the club - Picnics organised with outdoor games / Car treasure hunt Events at Easter etc , school holidays

Stay as it is - Yes

More weeks or weekends away - More weekends away / Nemo33

More involvement with the communities - (No Post its on this sheet)

Hodge Close Paul Egan

Hodge Close is in the Lake District and comes with a warning. Its tunnels and chambers should be tackled only by those suitably qualified.

GETTING THERE: Head for Ambleside and take the A593 towards Coniston. A few miles before reaching the town a small sign to the right indicates the road to Hodge Close. Follow this for a few miles until you reach the quarry car park, with the access tunnel through the private gate in the next group of slate houses. See owner for access (it usually costs £5). Don't try to open the gate without paying. Large dog lives in the house. Just ask Bob Jones.

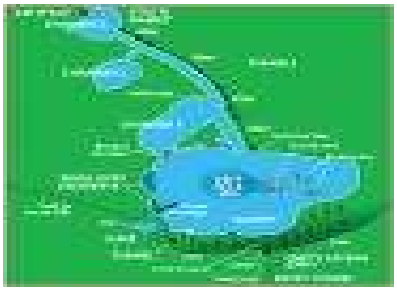
The single-track road winds its way uphill, passing a few traditional slate houses until the top of the quarry is reached.

Stopping here and looking down into the deep bowl gives a sense of the effort required to execute this mission. The sheer sides drop for more than 50m.
Some faces feature large boulder piles, and two large archways at the northern end connect to the neighbouring Parrock quarry.

The quarry is cold year-round, is around 30m deep and lies 155m above sea level. Visibility is usually around 10m, more in the mine. Divers should have technical/ overhead experience before diving in the tunnels, preferably with someone who has dived there previously.
Even minor incidents there can be dangerous because of the difficulty of diver extraction. Mobile phone signal is patchy but phone, spares, oxygen and first aid should be taken into the quarry as a precaution.
From the car park at the top of the quarry, the road continues until a further set of slate houses appear. The entry tunnel is accessed through a gate and down a track where you can park beside a stream. The road here is well worn and care should be taken not to lose your exhaust. Following the stream reveals a 100m-long tunnel cut through the cliffs during the workings. This provides convenient access for divers, but the shortcut comes with a catch.

The tunnel stream has varying depths from ankle to mid-thigh level, and the ceiling drops to 1.5m in places in pitch darkness! It's best to be fully kitted to walk through the tunnel and make sure you have everything tied on. If you lose anything here It's lost for good.
For taller people, having to crouch to negotiate the lower parts of the tunnel is a back-breaker, but character-building!

At the end of the tunnel, a poignant reminder of the challenges of diving at Hodge Close is attached to the wall. The sign warns of the dangers, and reminds us that people have lost their lives in the submerged tunnels.
The tunnel ends in a window in the middle of the cliff face, and a scaffolding ladder allows you to climb down the remaining 3m into the quarry. A small rope is attached to the ladder to lower gear down or you wear it down the ladder. Going down is the easy bit. Coming back up the ladder is a killer.
Once down at the quarry side, there is a further 30m of loose shale track to the waterside, where a flat boulder is ideal for kitting up.



Dropping down the sheer face of the quarry wall, your eyes adjust to the gloom and on the far side you can pick out the smallish hole that signals the entrance to the mine system in 25m. Look in but **DO NOT ENTER.**
The system is lined and I have been in many moons ago and it's not worth the dive. On the way in there is minimal silt and the vis is excellent, but on the way back it gets stirred up from both finning and exhaled bubbles.
The tunnels are straight enough, but the chambers have smaller cuts and side passages off them and these are confusing if you are not well prepared. People have died in these chambers when they have lost the way out because the viz has gone.
The first chamber of the mine system, reached after around 30m, is the biggest of the three. There used to be another shallower entrance here in 14m, but rock falls a few years ago have blocked this. The ceiling lies about 6-8m above your head and the walls are sheer-cut green slate, making for an impressive and imposing environment.
Two tunnels head from this chamber, the one through which you enter and one heading deeper into the system.
The entrance to the further chambers is guarded by another warning sign.
Chambers two and three lie 60m and 90m further into the system respectively. Worst-case contingencies must be planned for. As I have stated Look at the entrance but **Do not enter.**

The rest of the quarry makes for an interesting dive, with the large vans plus cars and TVs adorning the boulder slopes. Not much to see and you will be round in about 20 minutes so take your time.
Back at the surface, the adventures don't have to stop. A side-sump dive can be reached from another tunnel at the end of the quarry. At the back of this tunnel is a small hole and rather wobbly ladder. Kitting up here, you can jump through this hole and into a 7m-deep cavern. The vis is good, and you can look around without the risks of full-on cave-diving.
There is a large air space, but the rock does come to an archway at the exit point. Exiting under this brings you out under the main archways of the quarry (giving the now-famous skull-eyes reflection), where the rusted tracks of a crane remain. Walk out to the edge and jump back into the main quarry for the swim back to your original entry point.

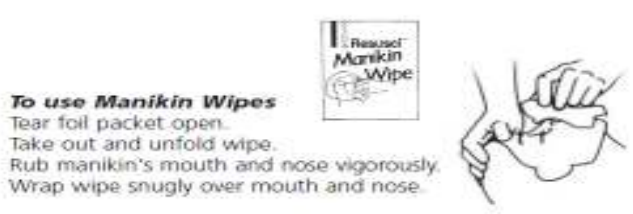
Hodge Close is an intimidating and challenging location in terms of both access and diving. The main quarry and sump can be fun for those fit enough and up for adventure.

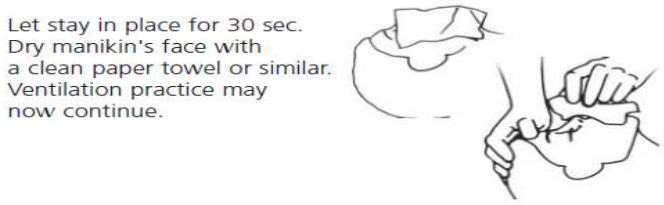
The main tunnels **should not be explored** unless you have the skills or experience to do so.
It's a mission to get there, but sometimes it's the level of effort that defines the dive.

A dive has been planned for 16th March 2013 to Hodges Close……
See Mark or Chris for details

RESUSCI ANNIE
A Guide to Hygienic Use

The club have and use a Resusci Annie for training purposes. According to Manufacturers guidelines (below) on hygiene it is acceptable to use Manikin Wipes (which contains the required 70% Ethyl Alcohol) after each student has used the dummy to prevent cross infection.


Resusci Manikin Wipe
To use Manikin Wipes
Tear foil packet open.
Take out and unfold wipe.
Rub manikin's mouth and nose vigorously.
Wrap wipe snugly over mouth and nose.



The use of Resusci Annie is an essential part of diver training and must be completed to allow you to progress through your qualifications. If you have any issues on how this training or hygiene is managed please see Ron.

A QUICK DIP WITH THE SMITHS…

This month we have caught up with DSAC's very own King, Queen & Prince of Ebay!!

CHRIS SMITH - SPORTS DIVER

1.Favourite dive destination - ***Thailand (just from the pics) ☺***
2. Favourite drink - ***Coke***
3. One hobby other than diving - ***Rock Climbing***
4. One thing you want to tell the club that we dont know about you - ***I'm Batman***
5. Favourite place to dive in the UK - ***Debdale, haha, maybe St Abbs***
6. You win the lottery, what is the first thing you do with it - ***Go travelling Europe and USA***
7. What is the last song you listened to today - ***Taylor Swift***
8. Favourite food - ***Tuc biscuits and spread cheese***
9. Dream dive destination - ***Deep underground cavern filled with fish and gold***
10. You are stranded on a desert island..name 3 things you would want with you. - ***Petrol, map, sea plane***

A QUICK DIP WITH THE SMITHS…

	Lesley - Sports Diver	Andy - Sports Diver
1. Best dive	Tenerife with the dolphins and the turtles	Tobago, Suicide Alley and Japanese Gardens
2. Hobbies other than diving	I am Brown Owl of a pack of brownies in Newton Heath, I have done this for 28 years. It involves more time than the hour and a half on a Wednesday evening with planning, training, days out and holidays, so I don't have much time for any other hobbies	Classic cars
3. Favourite Food	I love fillet steak with Diane or peppercorn sauce washed down with a bottle of dry white wine	I love curry especially from The Red Lounge in Audenshaw
4. You win the lottery, name 2 things you would do with it	I would make my home perfect and then travel the world.	I would buy a secluded island and a new dry suit
5. Wreck or wildlife	Wildlife	I just like diving so both!
6. One thing the club don’t know about you that you would like to tell us about yourself	I loved being at school (especially my primary school) and didn't want to leave! I am just a big kid at heart!	I learnt to drive on Ciba car park at the age of 14,drove in Malta at the age of 17 on a provisional license and my first car was an Austin 1300 GT
7. Dream destination	Australia	Truclagoon
8. You have a dinner party, name 2 guests you would invite	My Nanna who died 28 years ago but who I think of every day and David Attenborough - I think he would have some fantastic stories about the wildlife he has filmed over the years.	Leonardo Da Vinci and Angelina Jolie
9. You are stranded on a desert island, name 3 things you would have with you	I would take Andy, some way of playing music (though I doubt Andy would like this as I tend to sing along and I am tone deaf) and my diving mask & snorkel so I could see the wildlife in the sea around the island	I would take Lesley, a mask & snorkel and ear plugs so I don't have to listen to Lesley's music (especially her singing!)
10. Which superhero would you be and why	Wonder Woman (cos I couldn't think of any other superhero women!)	Spiderman

Social & Fundraising News…
Save the dates!

FAMILY FORTUNES…DSAC Clubhouse…Saturday 23rd February 2013
SUMMER PARTY … Saturday 15th June 2013
RONS ANNUAL BBQ…. Saturday 20th July 2013

WANTED
Dive Computers…Do you have one for sale…if so please contact Mike James and Luke Pilsbury at the pool

FOR SALE
Dell 964 colour ink jet printer/scanner/copier/fax. Software disc for Windows XP and user's manual included. Drivers available up to Windows Vista but wont work with Windows 7 or 8. LCD screen and media card slots so it is possible to print direct from printer without PC. Make a £10 donation to club funds and it's yours. Or I will donate it to the club if it's needed.

Also for sale, Suunto Vyper dive computer £70. For details phone Chris 07900243343

DAVE'S INDEPENDENT TRADERS

Droylsden/Farnes/Red Sea

Dave Parkinson has now managed to organise a full range of DSAC treats for you to buy including:-

Beanie Hats £7, Baseball Hats £8, Hoodies, embroidered polo shirts £10, T-shirts in a wide variety of colours. DSAC etched glasses – whisky, wine, pint and straight. £5 a pair.

Look here for the range of colours for the polo shirts, https://www.ralawise.com/product.aspx?id=1767

The beanies come in black, grey, navy, orange & yellow. The baseball caps come in black, green, royal blue, navy blue, red, grey, natural & white.

NOTE. All proceeds go towards Club Funds. Nobody except the club benefits and profits from the DSAC Merchandise, so by buying the gear you are helping YOUR club!

If you would like anything ordering speak to Dave or Ian at the pool or email Dave at daveparky1@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition…Dave 'sharky' Parky, Paul 'lump hammer' Egan, Matt 'mines a cider' Stevens, Keith 'head chef' Hyde, Mark 'sea sick' Sherlock, Helen 'newly wed' Wilkinson, Jules 'compass' Sherlock, Chris 'prince of Ebay' Smith, Andy 'King of Ebay' Smith & Lesley 'Brown Owl' Smith

Anyone got any dive holidays to tell us about? Past or present…wreck or wildlife…share them in the newsletter, even if it is just pictures that you think the club would like to see.

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